

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (previously presented): An image processing method for photoelectrically reading an image on a film and then performing a blemish elimination processing, comprising the steps of:  
  
reading a defective image to provide information regarding a defect on a film;  
  
then, reading photoelectrically said image to obtain an actual image;  
  
performing preprocessing for the blemish elimination processing on said defective image while reading photoelectrically said image; and  
  
performing the blemish elimination processing on a blemish of said actual image, based on the defective image subjected to said preprocessing,  
  
wherein said preprocessing comprises edge enhancement processing.
2. (previously presented): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said preprocessing is finished by the time the actual image is obtained.
3. (original): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the image on the film is sequentially read on a plane basis, and wherein said actual image is obtained and the blemish elimination processing is performed on the actual image by using said defective image subjected to said preprocessing.

4. (original): The image processing method according to claim 1,  
wherein said defective image is evaluated to obtain a evaluated result, and  
wherein said preprocessing and said blemish elimination processing are stopped in  
accordance with said evaluated result.
5. (previously presented): The image processing method according to claim 1,  
wherein said preprocessing comprises production of flag information which indicates the  
presence or absence of the defect on a pixel unit basis from the defective image.
6. (original): The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said  
defective image is photoelectrically read by using infrared light.
7. (previously presented): An image processing method for photoelectrically  
reading an image on a film and then performing a blemish elimination processing, comprising  
the steps of:  
  
reading a defective image to provide information regarding a defect on a film;  
  
performing preprocessing for the blemish elimination processing on said defective image;  
  
and  
  
performing the blemish elimination processing on a blemish of an actual image which is  
obtained by reading photoelectrically said image, based on the defective image subjected to said  
preprocessing,  
  
wherein said preprocessing comprises edge enhancement processing.

8. (previously presented): The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said preprocessing comprises production of flag information which indicates the presence or absence of the defect on a pixel unit basis from the defective image.

9. (original): The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said defective image is photoelectrically read by using infrared light.

10. (original): The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said defective image is evaluated to obtain a evaluated result, and wherein said preprocessing and said blemish elimination processing are stopped in accordance with said evaluated result.

11. (previously presented): The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said preprocessing is finished by the time the actual image is obtained.

12. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said actual image is an image without blemishes after performing the blemish elimination processing.

13. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said actual image is an image without blemishes after performing the blemish elimination processing.

14. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said edge enhancement comprises enhancing an edge of an image corresponding to a defective portion, emphasizing a boundary of the defective portion, and defining the position of the defect of the defective image.

15. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the preprocessing is performed during or before the image on the film is fine scanned by visible light.

16. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 7, wherein the preprocessing is performed during or before the image on the film is fine scanned by visible light.

17. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 4, wherein said evaluated result is a result on whether image data which is smaller than a given threshold value is present before performing the preprocessing.

18. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 17, wherein if a value of a defect in the defective image does not meet the threshold value, a blemish elimination processing is not needed and the defective image is directly sent to an image processing subsection without being subjected to preprocessing.

19. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said edge enhanced image data of the defective image is binary coded.

20. (previously presented): An image processing method according to claim 7, wherein preprocessing for the blemish elimination processing on the defective image is performed before reading photoelectrically the image to obtain an actual image.

21. (new): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the image is photoelectrically read to obtain a full actual image read on the film.

22. (new): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the defective image is read to obtain a full defective image read on the film.